OIPE JC100 JAN 23 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

01-26-04

HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	10/684,607
Filing Date	October 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Knott et al.
Group Art Unit	3682
Examiner Name	To be determined
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	
Attorney Docket Number	9249-000001

ENCLOSURES *(check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment / Response
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Assignment Papers *(for an Application)*
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group *(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)*
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) *(please identify below)*:

  Form 1449; copies of five foreign references; return postcard

Remarks: **The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.**

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm *or* Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name DONALD G. WALKER	Reg. No. 44,390
Signature	Donald G. Walker		
Date	January 23, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

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Signature	Donald G. Walker	Date	January 23, 2004

EV 406 075 855 US

OIPE JC109
JAN 23 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/684,607

Filing Date: October 14, 2003

Applicant: Jeffrey A. Knott et al.

Group Art Unit: 3682

Examiner: To be determined

Title: STEERING WHEEL TILT MECHANISM

Attorney Docket: 9249-000001

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A.____ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cross-referenced pending U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ____ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number U.S. Filing Date

C._X__ Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D.____ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A._X_ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B._X__ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1.____See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2._X__English translation is provided for: JP63134371 (Abstract)
3._X__Other:

JP63134371 appears to disclose a steering wheel tilt mechanism.

C. ____The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A.____The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No. Filing Date Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. X **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**: (check only one box)

1. ____ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ____ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. X before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of $180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ____ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**: (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ____ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of $180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ____ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)**:

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ____ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of $180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ____ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ____Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

___ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ____ A check in the amount of $180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ____Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of $180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2004

By: Donald G. Walker
Donald G. Walker, Reg. No. 44,390

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
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DGW/jm

OIPE JC109 JAN 23 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
9249-000001	10/684,607
APPLICANT	
Knott et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP
October 14, 2003	3682

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		3,355,962	12/1967	Gerdes et al.		
2.		5,161,425	11/1992	Baskett et al.		
3.		5,338,064	08/1994	Sadakata et al.		
4.		5,363,716	11/1994	Budzik, Jr. et al.		
5.		5,409,261	04/1995	Yamaguchi		
6.		5,419,581	05/1995	Schäfer et al.		
7.		5,452,624	09/1995	Thomas et al.		
8.		5,722,299	03/1998	Yamamoto et al.		
9.		5,743,151	04/1998	Khalifa et al.		
10.		5,823,062	10/1998	Snell et al.		
11.		5,941,130	08/1999	Olgren et al.		
12.		5,992,263	11/1999	Bleuel et al.		
13.		6,036,228	03/2000	Olgren et al.		
14.		6,131,481	10/2000	Wilson et al.		
15.		6,139,057	10/2000	Olgren et al.		
16.		6,167,777	01/2001	Snell		
17.		6,206,421	03/2001	Schremmer		
18.		6,244,128	06/2001	Spencer et al.		
19.		6,279,414	08/2001	Moon		
20.		6,279,951	08/2001	Cartwright et al.		
21.		6,282,977	09/2001	Satoh et al.		

Examiner: Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

OIPE JC109 JAN 23 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM HDBK 1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
9249-000001	10/684,607
APPLICANT	
Knott et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP
October 14, 2003	3682

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		6,282,978	09/2001	Kurita		
23.		6,349,967	02/2002	Cartwright		
24.		6,357,318	03/2002	Koellisch et al.		
25.		6,364,357	04/2002	Jurik et al.		
26.		6,386,587	05/2002	Hebenstreit et al.		
27.		6,390,717	05/2002	Bär		
28.		6,419,269	07/2002	Manwaring et al.		
29.		6,435,555	08/2002	Seamon et al.		
30.		6,450,531	09/2002	Rinker et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.		EP 0 497 262	01/1996	European			
2.		EP 0 807 564	11/1997	European			
3.		EP 0 818 379	05/2002	European			
4.		EP 1 002 711	05/2000	European			
5.		JP 63134371	06/1988	Japan		Abstract	

Examiner: Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.